

Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine July 1, 2007

President Bush. Welcome. Is everybody having a nice day here?

Q. Yes. The lobsters are good.

President Bush. They are good.

Visit of President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia

Q. Sir, are you going to take him fishing?

President Bush. We might just do that, yes. Not sure yet, Mark.

Q. Today?

President Bush. Maybe today. It's pretty casual up here, as you know—unstructured.

Q. —the menu?

The First Lady. Lobster; what else? [Laughter]

[At this point, the exchange continued, and no transcript was provided. It resumed as follows.]

Visit to Kennebunkport, Maine

Q. How was the fishing today, sir?

President Bush. Lousy. [Laughter] Was that you, Chuck, the other day? No wonder we didn't catch any fish. They took a look at you and—[laughter]—headed out.

Terrorist Attacks in the United Kingdom

Q. Sir, while you're waiting, can you tell us what you think of those terrorist incidents in Britain and Scotland?

President Bush. We got a press conference tomorrow, Mark. But it just goes to show the war against these extremists goes on. You never know where they may try to strike. And appreciate the very strong response that the Gordon Brown Government has given to the attempts by these people.

[The exchange continued, and no transcript was provided. It resumed as follows.]

President Bush. Everybody been behaving themselves?

President's Vacation/Major League Baseball

Q. You sure you won't come back here a little more often? [Laughter]

President Bush. That's what I figured. [Laughter]

Q. I wasn't going to give you the satisfaction—[laughter].

President Bush. That's what I thought, yes. Well, the guy is counting the days in Crawford, you know. [Laughter]

Q. I'm counting your days here too—35.

Q. Are you watching any baseball?

President Bush. I watched the Ranger-Red Sox game today.

Q. Is it over? Did they win today too?

Q. I think they won today too.

Q. But the Yankees lost.

President Bush. They did?

[The exchange continued, and no transcript was provided. It resumed as follows.]

[President Putin arrived.]

President George H.W. Bush. Where did these guys all come from? When I left there was nobody here.

President Bush. Come over, Condi. Come on, Bill.

Okay? It's been real. [Laughter] Thanks for coming.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:35 p.m. at Walker's Point. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Gordon Brown of the United Kingdom. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Remarks Following Discussions With President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and an Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport

July 2, 2007

President Bush. First, I'd like to congratulate President Putin for being the only person that caught a fish today. I wanted to congratulate the President for being the only person that caught a fish. It was a fine catch. Secondly, I welcome you to my family home.

And we had a good, casual discussion on a variety of issues. You know, through the course of our relationship there have been times when we've agreed on issues, and there's been times when we haven't agreed on issues. But one thing I've found about—of Vladimir Putin is that he is consistent, transparent, honest, and is an easy man to discuss our opportunities and problems with.

We talked about nuclear security and made great strides in setting a foundation for future relations between the United States and Russia in dealing with the nuclear security issues. We talked about our bilateral relations; we talked about our—the relations with countries like Iran and North Korea. We had a very long, strategic dialog that I found to be important, necessary, and productive.

And so I welcome you, Vladimir. Thanks for coming.

President Putin. I would like to congratulate us with the good work done.

First of all, I would like to thank the hosts for their invitation and President Bush for this invitation. Indeed, we had a very nice fishing party this morning. We caught one fish, but that was a team effort—

President Bush. A team effort—

President Putin. —and we let it go to the captain of the boat—[laughter]—

President Bush. Very thoughtful of you. [Laughter]

President Putin. —the 42d President of the United States. [Laughter]

President Bush. That's right.

President Putin. As for the negotiations, negotiations were very substantial. We discussed basically the entire gamut of both bilateral issues and international issues. George listed practically all issues that we've touched upon. And I was pleased to note that we are seeking the points of coincidence in our positions and very frequently we do found them. And I'm very grateful to the Bush family for this very warm, homey atmosphere around this meeting, and we appreciate it very much.

I do believe that we have to learn something from the older generation. And the attitude shown both to me and to the members of my delegation was way beyond the official and the protocol needs. And additionally, we had an opportunity to have a look at this part of the United States, a fantastic place. We've seen the warmth and the very positive attitude of the people around here and use this opportunity to say to them that we appreciate their warmth, and we are grateful for their very warm reception of us.

Mind you, the fish that we caught, we've let it free. [Laughter]

President Bush. A couple of questions. Tony, you going to call on them? Hold on a second, please. Please. Tony.

White House Press Secretary Tony Snow. Deb Riechmann [Associated Press].

President Bush. Deb, yes.

Iran/Missile Defense System

Q. Mr. President, I have a question for either one, or both of you.

President Bush. Either one of us, okay—or both of us.

Q. Both of you. For you, sir: Were you successful in getting President Putin's support for tough sanctions, like cargo inspections, against Iran?